

Bulletin



District 20 AMPA delegates at the OSSTF Provincial Assembly March 8-11, 2014. To the 21 Delegates... THANK YOU!

1st Annual Mentorship Awards Nominations Now Being Accepted

The District 20 Teachers' Bargaining Unit will annually recognize mentors with an award at the President's Celebration Dinner in June. This year's venue is the Holiday Inn Burlington Banquet Centre.

An essential part of the teaching profession is the ability and willingness of so many teachers to become mentors to their colleagues on a voluntary basis. True mentoring is more than just answering occasional questions or providing ad hoc help. It is about an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue, and challenge.

To be eligible, the nominator and nominee must be members of the District 20 Teachers' Bargaining Unit. The mentorship must have taken place in the current school year.

Members of District 20 TBU can nominate another member as deserving of recognition for their mentorship on or before May 6th by writing a letter to TBU President Brad Fisher outlining the reasons why the nominee should be recognized.

Supreme Court Cases Delay OSSTF's Bill 115 Challenge **UNIFOR wishes to join challenge!**

OSSTF, Toronto Two weeks ago, the judge assigned to the OSSTF/FEESO Bill 115 Charter challenge, Justice Himel, held a meeting or case management conference of all the lawyers representing the unions (OSSTF, ETFO, CUPE, OPSEU) involved in the case and the Attorney General lawyers representing the government. Last week, Justice Himel issued a decision on the basis of the meeting.

During the case management conference, the Attorney-General requested an adjournment (postponement) of the June 2014 hearing dates set aside by the Ontario Court to hear the Bill 115 Charter challenge. The Attorney General's postponement request stemmed from two issues:

1. Three cases similar in nature to OSSTF/FEESO's Bill 115 case are currently being argued before the Supreme Court of Canada. The Attorney General presented the argument that the law is currently changing on the meaning of the protections for collective bargaining and strike action under s. 2(d) of the Charter. The current cases before the Supreme Court will shape and form the law and will be very instructive to the Judge hearing OSSTF/FEESO's Bill 115 challenge. They argued that on a practical basis, the Court dates in June 2014 will be wasted because all parties will have to return following the Supreme Court's decision to address the updated law;

2. Another union wishes to intervene in the Bill 115 Challenge. UNIFOR believes that it has a direct interest in the Charter Challenge because some of its members were affected by Bill 115. It has requested to join the proceeding and file materials, and wants some time to be able to do so.

We sought legal advice on the request to postpone the Bill 115 Charter Challenge. While not pleased with a postponement, the Provincial Executive accepted the advice recognizing that Justice Himel was likely to grant it because it made sense from a legal perspective. D/BU #134/2013-2014 — March 19, 2014

Justice Himel granted the adjournment thus cancelling the hearing date initially scheduled for June 2014. While we were advised by Justice

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Himel last week that the matter would be adjourned until March 2015, the actual date was contested due to the unavailability of some of the parties. As a result, we are still waiting for confirmation of the actual hearing date.

We anticipate that it will likely take place sometime during April 2015. Once the final date is confirmed, OSSTF will advise you.

More info is on Member Protected section on the provincial website www.osstf.ca.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATOR AWARD

Nominations Accepted Until April 15th

In order to raise awareness, understanding, and appreciation of diversity, and to help eliminate bias, prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination and harassment related to race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, or religion in Halton schools, this award is given to recognize and encourage a secondary teacher whose active participation in activities, events, and/or curriculum development at the board or school level have contributed to advancing these goals in Halton's schools.

The Inclusive Educator Award will be made at the Annual Teacher Bargaining Unit Assembly on May 13th. The award consists of a plaque, and \$500, donated each year by the founder of this award, a retired Halton secondary school teacher.

Nomination letters should be sent to Lorie Wiersma wiersmal@osstfd20.ca at the District Office.

The Executive of the Teacher Bargaining Unit will select the recipient from the nominations received by April 15th at 4 p.m.

BOB SMITH AWARD

Nominations Accepted Until April 15th

This award is to honour a member who has made a contribution to the Union over a considerable period of time of service to the Bargaining Unit or District.

Experience considered by the committee may include having served as Branch President, Executive member, Standing Committee member or member of a Provincial Standing Committee, AMPA representative, or workshop provider.

Nomination letters should be sent to Lorie Wiersma wiersmal@osstfd20.ca at the District Office.

The Executive of the Teacher Bargaining Unit will select the recipient from the nominations received by April 15th at 4 p.m.

Key Dates

Critical Path for Secondary Staffing

March 28/31 Teachers who are potentially surplus to school notified by principal.

April 8 Internal ad. Open to all permanent and probationary teachers, including those potentially surplus to school. No top-up allowed. Not open to teachers declared potentially redundant.

April 10 Teachers who are surplus to school notified in writing.

April 22 Deadline for surplus teachers to submit preference form to HR.

April 29 Surplus Placement meeting. Surplus teachers placed in available vacancies according to seniority and qualifications. Surplus teachers who are placed in another school no longer need to notify the Board of their wish to retain right of recall to their home school. The Board is assuming they wish to retain that right.

April 30 Last day for notification to Board of intent to retire as of June 30.

May 2 Surplus teachers who were considered at the Surplus Placement meeting on April 29 are notified of their status. A surplus teacher will either (a) have been placed in another school, with right of recall to the home school, or (b) have been declared potentially excess to region.

May 6 Internal ad. Open to all permanent/probationary teachers. Not open to teachers who have been declared potentially excess to region/potentially redundant. Top-up allowed only if there are no excess/redundant teachers.

May 20 Internal ad. Same conditions as May 6.

May 30 Teachers on excess/redundancy list notified in writing of their status as redundant to the system effective August 31.

June 5 Excess/redundancy Placement meeting. Excess/redundant teachers placed in available vacancies according to seniority and qualifications.

After June 5 Excess/redundant teachers, if any, placed in available vacancies, as they arise, according to seniority and qualifications.